

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A transceiver for two-way data communication via satellite, the transceiver comprising

a forward link manager for managing data communication in a first direction via satellites in geostationary orbit, and

a return link manager for managing data communication in a second direction via satellites in a below geostationary orbit

wherein said forward link manager is additionally operable to manage an Internet backbone link to manage data communication in said first direction via satellites in said below geostationary orbit.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A transceiver according to claim-2 1, wherein said forward link manager comprises a selector for selecting between satellites in geostationary orbit and satellites in below geostationary orbit based on a content type of the data to be transmitted.

4. (Currently Amended) A transceiver according to claim 3 1, wherein said selector is operable to select satellites in below geostationary orbit for data having content types including any one of a group comprising voice, messaging, and control signaling, and selecting satellites in geostationary orbit for data having other content types.

5. (Original) A transceiver according to claim 1 wherein satellites in below geostationary orbit comprise satellites in medium earth orbit and satellites in low earth orbit.

6. (Original) A transceiver according to claim 1, further operable to transmit and receive data using the Internet Protocol.

7. (Canceled)

ai 8. (Original) A transceiver according to claim 1, wherein said first direction is a generally data heavy direction and said second direction is a generally data light direction.

9. (Currently Amended) An electronic terminal associated with a two-way satellite transceiver for connecting said terminal to an electronic network, the transceiver comprising a receiver for receiving data via a connection to a satellite in geostationary orbit and a transmitter for sending data via a satellite in a lower than geostationary orbit, wherein said receiver is additionally operable to receive data via satellites in said below geostationary orbit and wherein said terminal is further operatively associated with an internet backbone connection to render data to be received to be available via both said geostationary and lower than geostationary orbit satellites.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) An electronic terminal according to claim 9, wherein satellites in below geostationary orbit comprise satellites in medium earth orbit and satellites in low earth orbit.

12. (Original) An electronic terminal according to claim 9, wherein said transceiver is operable to transmit and receive data using the Internet Protocol.

13. (Canceled)

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14. (Currently Amended) A method of maintaining a data link from an electronic network to a remote terminal, the method comprising
sending data to said remote terminal via at least one satellite in geostationary orbit,
using an internet backbone link, additionally sending data having a predetermined data type to said remote terminal via at least one satellite in a lower than geostationary orbit, and
receiving data from said terminal via said at least one satellite in a lower than geostationary orbit.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~15~~14 wherein said predetermined data type includes at least voice, messaging and control signaling.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 14, wherein satellites in below geostationary orbit comprise satellites in medium earth orbit and satellites in low earth orbit.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 14, wherein sending and receiving of data is carried out using the Internet Protocol.

a1 19. (Currently Amended) A method of maintaining a data link from a terminal to a remote electronic network, the method comprising
at said terminal receiving data from said remote electronic network via at least one satellite in geostationary orbit,

providing a data link from an infrastructure of said at least one satellite in geostationary orbit to an infrastructure of a satellite in lower than geostationary orbit,
at said terminal further receiving data having a predetermined data type from said remote electronic network via at least one satellite in a lower than geostationary orbit and said data link, and

from said terminal sending data to said remote electronic network via said at least one satellite in a lower than geostationary orbit.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 19, wherein satellites in below geostationary orbit comprise satellites in medium earth orbit and satellites in low earth orbit.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 19, wherein sending and receiving of data is carried out using the Internet Protocol.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~22~~19, wherein said predetermined data type includes at least voice, messaging and control signaling.

a1 24. (NEW) A method of maintaining a data link from an electronic network to a remote terminal, the method comprising

sending data to said remote terminal via at least one satellite in geostationary orbit, and

using an internet backbone link, receiving data from said terminal via said at least one satellite in a lower than geostationary orbit.
